

THE TIMES  
**Higher Education**  
SUPPLEMENT

## Long-term training policy urged for 16-19 group

by Frances Gibb

A comprehensive long-term programme of education and training for the 16 to 19 age group has been called for by the Socialist Education Association.

In a resolution submitted for the Labour Party conference in October, the association says it is alarmed by the lack of progress in the elimination of class, race or sex discrimination in post-school education and training.

It welcomes the quick implementation of the Holland report, but adds that this is a result of short-term expediency to overcome unemployment, rather than any long-term plan.

A wide-ranging programme for this age group should include: a total review of the financial provision, provision of education, training work and careers guidance; every local authority should prepare a plan and make such provision for 16 to 19s and talk with both sides of industry to help in the programme.

The association also calls on the Government to insist that colleges, universities and local authorities take immediate action to help the disadvantaged; for instance, by changing admissions criteria to take account of the social and educational background of applicants.

A system of paid educational leave as a right for working people is called for in a resolution tabled by Pemorth and the Border Constituency Labour Party.

It also calls on the Government to adjust the grant/fee support system to ensure greater equality.

## Director sought to oversee teaching company scheme

by Clive Cookson

Science correspondent

The Science Research Council and the Department of Industry are looking for a director for their expanding teaching company scheme.

Funds should also be provided for the National Advisory Council on adult education.

A third resolution, from West Dunbarton CLP, calls for legislation to permit special funds to be diverted for the education, training and re-training of post-school groups.

Both the Conservatives and Liberal parties are expected to concentrate on schools at their conferences. The Conservatives have now drawn up the final agenda from the list of submitted motions, which is to be published at the end of September. Higher education is not expected to be included.

On the original list, however, there were motions on various higher education issues such as tuition fees for 16 to 19s and talks with both sides of industry to help in the programme.

The Liberal Party composite motion on education also mainly concerns schools, although it contains a general statement deploreding educational cuts. It says also that the current surplus of teachers should be used to improve the overall teacher-pupil ratio.

On the school curriculum, it says that pupils should be prepared to help to establish a national trade union educational centre and to finance a "significant expansion in residential facilities" on trade union courses, according to the TUC annual report, which is to be presented to Congress next month.

By the early 1980s, it says, about 150,000 trade unionists a year will be going on education courses connected with union work. The Government will be asked for several million pounds a year to help pay for them.

For this year's 40,000 training places the TUC asked for £1,135,000. It received £550,000. Last year's grant from public funds was £100,000.

The expansion in educational courses sought by the TUC comes from its forecast that by the early 1980s there will be 600,000 active union representatives at any one time. These will include 300,000 shop steward and white collar representatives, up to 200,000 union safety representatives, 100,000 union pensions representatives and, possibly, some union residential courses of at least four days.

Last year's grant went on the payment of course fees to public bodies providing day release courses, on teaching materials, course development at the TUC college, tutor training and on union residential courses of at least four days.

For this year the General Council asked the Government if it would also help to pay up to half the cost of union courses providing a minimum of 15 hours study days, but the request was turned down.

In recent years about £10,000 a year has been going to the TUC for educational purposes from the EEC trade union information division.

Following consultations this year with EEC officials, the TUC has now undertaken to use this money only in connexion with courses "set in, or including, an EEC context".

Accounting an annual turnover of 20 per cent, the current figure, this will mean that 120,000 new representatives a year will need training. About 500 additional full-time tutors will be required.

At present there are about 100.

TUC policy is to send members on courses organized by further education colleges, the Workers' Educational Association and some university extra-mural departments. It would like to establish departmental units.

Eight students have already arrived in London and the rest will be flying in within the next three weeks.

A BMA spokesman said the students seemed "totally confused" and did not know what they were going to do next.

Dr Vincent Moran, Maltese Health Minister, said the Government was not funding students after a "British" government commitment, as a drop-out measure. But what will happen to take the Maltese students when they return to Malta?

## NEXT WEEK

B.A. president's address  
The THES readership survey  
Music at University College, Cardiff  
Philip Abrams reviews four new books on the media.

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one shilling.

This £1.3m social studies building at Warwick University, initially delayed because of the spending cuts, has now been completed. Social science departments will be housed in it.

THE TIMES

# Higher Education

SUPPLEMENT

September 2, 1977 No 305

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## Councils check student union spending

by Sue Reid

Local authorities are planning to send a two-man "fire team" to colleges and polytechnics this autumn to investigate student unions.

A committee of the Society of Education Officers has decided to move, reported in today's *Times*, because of members' growing concern over the high level of student unions.

The committee that won £10m is paid out each year by Government and local authority capitalisation fees to unions.

This statement seems a little premature, however, since only seven have actually been announced and no one in the SRC

is willing to give details of the scheme for this week. It is thought that there are still some details of the programme to be settled with the firms and educational institutions—two universities and two polytechnics—involved.

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## ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENTS

## Thematic approach to French goes forward

by David Walker

Next term students in French at Manchester University begin the second year of the department's redesigned and modernized syllabus. Staff report the first year a success for their replacement of the traditional language syllabus with a pattern of study combining linguistic skill and knowledge of the culture and society of modern France.

The key to the Manchester reforms is the abolition of traditional divisions into historical periods or genres such as the novel or drama. The course now divides into "themes" such as irony, the comic, the literature of the town. The teaching method will be by small groups of students working with staff outside the formality of the lecture hall.

While the literature of France will remain at the core of the course, the department has broadened the range of options. In the second and third years they can combine with literary and linguistic medieval studies, contemporary French language, the history of French art and political thought and institutions.

The formula adopted by the three professors in the department, R. W. Sculthorpe (classical French literature), William Rothwell (French language and medieval French literature), and G. F. A. Godfrere (modern French literature) is as follows. "In the study of French in Manchester we are making a determined attempt to avoid the dangers of polarization towards either literary or a non-literary approach to a foreign culture. We are introducing new elements, but we do not wish to jettison anything which has proved its value in the more traditional approaches".

After consultation with students it was decided to retain a basic first year. All would be given a knowledge of the historical development of French from the Middle Ages together with grounding in the techniques of modern linguistics. This involves a strong emphasis on everyday French. The permanent staff of the department has eight native speakers and five French assistants are employed. The French press will be studied and new audio-visual techniques utilized. All students will spend a year abroad.

The department offers French in combination with other disciplines and other foreign languages. This year it may be combined with Italian, Russian or Linguistics, all honours courses.

## Social studies hits headlines

## The Exmouth connexion

by Judith Judd

Rolle College, Exmouth, saved from the axe partly because it serves a rural area, launches a BA in urban studies this month.

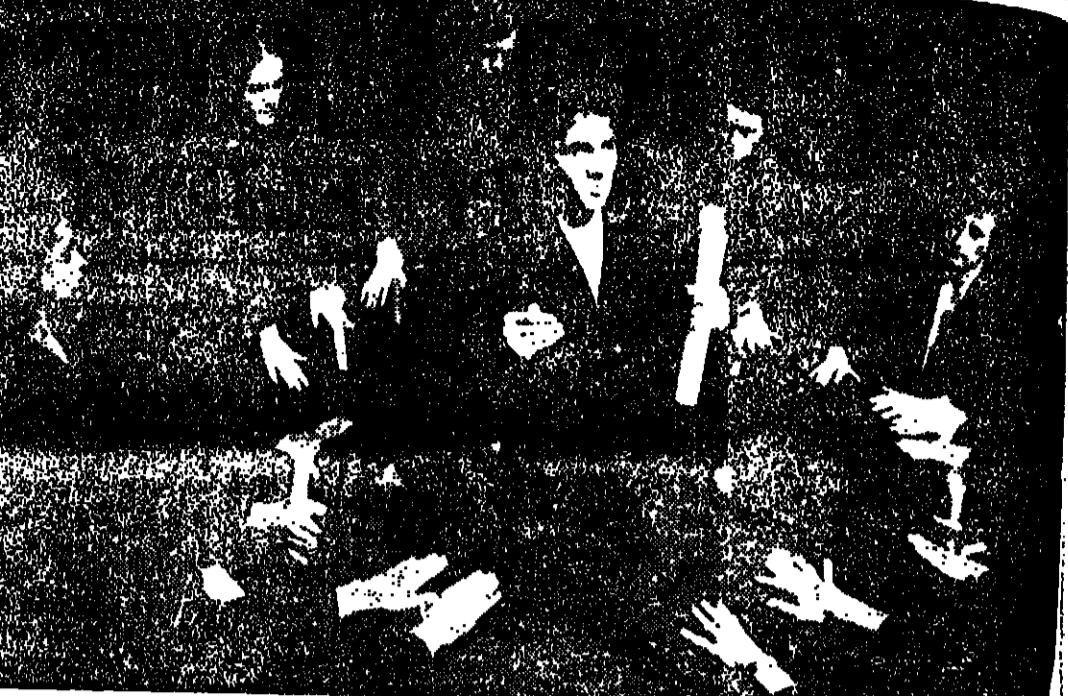
Mr L. W. M. Fry lecturer in urban studies, says there are good reasons for setting up a course at Exmouth: the college already has the courses which form the basis for the degree so it will be able to build on its resources and experience; the degree will look at urban development and the influence of urbanisation is a very wide context so the college's situation is not especially relevant; Mr. Fry points out the large proportion of the population live in small towns—from Exmouth students will be able to do field studies in a variety of small and medium-sized towns.

The course aims to look at urban society through many disciplines. Its purpose is to integrate disciplines through concentration on a common theme. Students will be able to study economics, geography, history, politics and sociology. The course will centre on Britain but will also include studies of other parts of the world. The degree is expected to equip students to work in administration, planning, the social services or commerce.

The first two years give a grounding in the social sciences but offer an "applied studies programme" in addition. This is a series of seminars, workshops and projects in the field making use of staff expertise in statistical techniques. Mr. John Hall, one of the degree's creators, is a leading light of the quantitative methods group of sociologists and worked formerly with the Social Science Research Council's survey research unit.

The third and fourth years require choosing between specializing in social work with a view to obtaining the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work, or in oral research. The latter is intended to prepare students for careers in social administration, planning and research.

Preference for the course will be given to those with at least a year's work experience.



More and more are taking performing arts courses.

## On with the dance, music, drama, etc...

At Birmingham, the course is similarly both practical and theoretical, and will prepare students for research into the art forms of opera, music, drama, for teaching in schools and colleges of further education, or for professional work on the stage.

Professor Ivor Keys, of the music department and Mr. Jocelyn Powell, of the drama department, argue that there is a need for such a course because research has shown students with these three interests are usually forced to specialize in only one. In the case of dance, they have in the past had to take a practical course below degree level.

Other topics will be the problems of presenting classical repertoire in modern conditions, and the study of personal and social behaviour.

## Birmingham centre takes up the Byzantine cause

The post-graduate Centre for Byzantine Studies at Birmingham University now replaces the Committee for Byzantine Studies, which existed for 13 years, built up a library and other resources, started a degree course, and organized study tours, inter-faculty courses and international symposia.

The centre, whose full-time director is Dr Anthony Bryer, will continue the committee's work of providing teaching in what is essentially an interdisciplinary field with lecturers from eight different departments. At present there are 17 postgraduate students.

In a sense, the centre's inauguration merely formalized an existing situation. Byzantine studies was already well established at the university; the British Bulletin of Byzantine Studies is edited there, and the journal *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies* was founded

there. Among the university possess the Whiting Collection of 16,000 Byzantine coins, one of the notable collections in Western Europe.

Academics from many countries visited the centre earlier this year for its spring symposium, on the Byzantine Empire and Caliphate and the Crusader Intervention in the period 632-1258. Topics discussed included commerce, urban life, military matters, astronomy, Byzantine and Islamic palaces and ceremony, and the Latin heritage in the Levant.

More ambitious plans for the centre, however, because of shortage of funds, it is hoped eventually to establish more permanent posts and to increase the number of students. The University Grants Committee has been encouraging but so far the necessary money has not been provided.

## PCL diploma in women's studies

Diploma in women's studies is being offered by the Polytechnic of Central London this month. The correspondence course will be run on a part-time basis of one evening a week over two years.

Students will take five short courses ranging from "Women in the Family" and the "History and Political Character of the Women's Movement" to "Differing Theoretical Accounts of Women's Politics". Students attend five study weekends and submit a project in their final term.

The course is being run by the college's cultural and community studies unit, part of the School of Communication. Numbers will be limited to 26 and the course fee is £16.

Further details are obtainable from the Registry, School of Communication, PCL, 18-22 Riding House Street, London, W1 (Tel: 01-436 5811).

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## The watermark of success

Each student on the course will at some stage produce his own pulp and paper from wood chips, coat and print it. Practical work is supplemented by summer vacation employment in paper mills.

Students come from three main sources: direct entry through UCCA, sponsorship by a paper mill (holding ONC or HNC), and from overseas.

The paper science building contains a complete paper mill on a pilot plant scale and testing laboratories which are available for use by industrial firms and research organizations on daily hire.

The department has its own substantial research programme and specialises in dryer systems, paper coating and, lately, the recycling of paper products.

## Housing degree

Bristol Polytechnic is to offer a BA in housing administration this month. The course, lasting three years and one term, will include substantial research, programme and group project work and a four-month placement in the housing profession. It has been developed by the department of surveying

and environmental studies, physics and chemistry. Aspects of paper technology include raw materials, fibre extraction and finishing. Some time is also devoted to the economics and management of the industry.

Open University art and environment course students playing "chase the dragon's tail" at their summer school which ended last week at Sussex University. They are led by Marcelle Weed, an American recreator and summer school organizer, who says games should be played with love. The dragon game is an exercise in social contact.

## WEA claims grant share-out unfair

by Sarah Segrue

The East Midlands district of the Workers' Educational Association claim that a £1m grant from the Department of Education and Science has been unfairly distributed between the 17 districts in England and Wales.

The problem has arisen because the DES has changed the system of financing WEA districts from grant-in-aid, which covered 75 per cent of their agreed teaching costs, to a new cash limit grant from last month.

In the allocation East Midlands were given £91,800, which they say represents only about a 7 per cent increase over last year's figure while other districts have received as much as a 23 per cent increase. Although the cash limit grant gives the districts greater freedom in spending, East Midlands say they cannot operate within the new cash limit grant from last month.

On the question why the DES changed

to a cash limit grant they say it is a case of spreading the jam a little thinner. We cannot operate within these limits but the Government says we have to. The allocation was supposed to get us out of the continuous cycle of having a deficit at the end of the year."

One reason why the DES changed to a cash limit grant was that it had been urging the WEAs to concentrate on their own fund raising efforts. Mr Jeffreys said that where local authorities had cut their grants to the traditional evening classes. But, as Mr Lines explained, it cost money and he was already having difficulty in getting tutors. He could pay only £5 for an evening's work against the £10 to £13 being offered by the extra mural department of Leicester University.

The East Midlands district have lobbied and written to MPS as well as the government. "Given the present difficult financial situation, this is the most important moment to be as helpful as it can be, but of course none of us have enough money to do what we want to do."

In allocating this money the DES wanted to give each district a reasonably fair chance of avoiding a deficit at the end of the year and had taken the circumstances into account.

East Midlands, which covers Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, are already making economies. Two staff members who have left are unlikely to be replaced and in some areas 10-week courses are being cut down to six or eight weeks.

Mr. Billy Hughes, WEA president, explained that overall they were reasonably satisfied with the new system of allocating the DES grant as it gave them greater flexibility.

Mr. Reg Jefferies, WEA general secretary, said: "In the East Midlands districts they probably got less than they were expecting but will find it fairly difficult. I think this district is about the worse off."

"In some cases districts are

better off in knowing exactly how much grant they are going to receive which means the uncertainty of the financial situation has been removed."

The districts are having to work within the cash limit grants and anything they get in the way of local education authority grants and from their own fund raising efforts. Mr. Jeffreys said that where local authorities had cut their grants to the traditional evening classes.

Many districts were having to increase fees which would be a problem if they were going to do anything with the disadvantaged.

Mr. Lines explained, "It cost

## Polytechnics 'damaged' by local authorities

by David Walker

The influence of local authorities over the polytechnics is "negative and restrictive", according to a statement from the Association of Polytechnic Teachers. The statement has been issued to enable the discussions of the committee inquiring into the management of public sector higher education under Mr. Oakes, Minister of State.

The APT, the organization of polytechnic lecturers based at Portsmouth Polytechnic, sets out its position against what government funding for polytechnics are penalized by old-fashioned staffing arrangements inadequate for college technical and library staff.

The anonymous author of the APT's statement strikes a personal note when he discusses the inability of local authorities' finance departments to comprehend some of the items of expenditure by a good polytechnic teacher. "The place of students in industry has required the availability of funds for travelling, subsistence and entertainment. The word 'entertainment' used here will have elicited a conditioned reflex from most local authority representatives. Memories of standing for hours in trains, separated by class of compartment from basically based and generally junior travelling companions, en route to visit sandwich students, will have aroused bitter reflections from lecturers."

The APT lists a number of widely held "fallacies" about local authority involvement in the polytechnics. First, ratepayers provide only a small part of their cost, most of it is met from national taxation. And polytechnic activities have had to be carried out under the cloak of deception to pass the complex bureaucracy linking colleges and the education committee.

"It is my conclusion fallacy that the control of local authority higher education is part of the democratic duty of authorities not within their ability," the APT says.

"Actually the local authority's role is as an agent for the advanced fur-

## First look at leisure services

A working group set up by Middlesex Polytechnic's local government studies unit to look at the way in which local authorities in England charge for their leisure, recreation and amenities services, will be meeting for the first time this month.

Mr Dennis Marsh, senior lecturer in local government studies, said last week that between 40 and 50 authorities would be taking part.

The interest they have shown is considerable. They have already submitted a lot of written evidence.

A report on the group's work will be published after the meetings which were rescheduled from earlier this year because of student unrest to September, October and November. Mr. Marsh decided to set up a national working group to look at recreation charges after completing pilot research.

"It is anticipated that the group will consider charges across the whole spectrum of leisure—from sauna baths to fishing permits. The developing trend over the past few years of local authorities becoming more involved in leisure provision makes it imperative that the whole question of charges and charging policies is investigated and debated", he said.

The workshop was advertised in the job vacancy lists sent to all universities and polytechnics. The number of replies was about double that needed, Mr. Ewins said. One third of the students are from PCL, with the rest coming from places such as Durham and the Midlands.

Students are equally interested in the practical aspects of leisure and recreation, particularly outdoor activities and one-to-one teacher training graduate.

On the first day, the workshop will concentrate on counselling students: encouraging them to look at past experiences, where they are now, and what the future holds. "This is to give them a feeling of being in control of their situation, and give them a positive approach", Ms. Ewins said.

The second day will provide, with the aid of videotapes, the practical details of job hunting: filling in forms; letters of application; and interviews. "Many people think that graduates ought to know all this", Ms. Ewins said. "But although they may be educated in an academic educational way, when it comes to practical knowledge, they are as naive as the school leaver."

She added, however, that although unemployment among graduates was estimated to be about 9 per cent at present, they were not as badly off as school leavers or the average number of the public.

Eight fellowships have been awarded for 1977 to graduate who want to study medicine by the Foulkes Foundation, which was established in 1975 with the aims of furthering medical research.

They are intended to provide financial support for recently qualified medicine graduates with research experience who want to study medicine and for medical graduates who want to take a science degree.

## 8 medical awards

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# Evidence, clues and motives in science

There are many analogies that one can use to illustrate the way in which science advances. A little over a hundred years ago, my grandfather Thomas Henry Huxley, in his presidential address to the meeting of the British Association at Liverpool, used the analogy of a military campaign. He described himself as using the elevation of his position as president to "cast his eyes round the horizon of the scientific world, to report to his colleagues what could be seen from his watch-tower; in what directions the multitudinous army of the imparters of natural knowledge were marching; what important strongholds had been recently captured; and also, with some impartiality, to mark where the advanced posts of science had been driven in, or a long-contested siege had made no progress".

This choice of a military analogy was his keeping with his pugnacious spirit, for, although he described himself as a man of peace who never—well, hardly ever—stirred a controversy but only retaliated in self-defence, there can be no doubt that he relished a verbal battle. For example, when Gladstone published an article making the outrageous claim that the Book of Genesis foretold all that had been discovered by evolutionary biologists, my grandfather wrote to a friend that "Gladstone's article caused such a flow of bile that I have been feeling the better for it ever since".

My own inclination has been to think of the progress of science as resembling the exploration of a newly discovered continent. Nature is there, not like an enemy resisting our advance, but waiting for us to find our way through her jungles and across her mountain passes.

In part, my choice of an analogy from peace rather than war is a reflection of my more peaceful temperament, but I think it also reflects a difference between the position of science in his time and mine. In 1870, the scientific way of thinking, or of solving a problem, was still struggling for recognition in this country. That battle was won, and subsequent generations—including my own, have reaped the benefit: we have been allowed to carry on our investigations without serious opposition, and have been granted high esteem by our contemporaries in other fields of human activity.

For most of my working life, I have taken this for granted, and have supposed that the battles of a century ago and decided the issue once for all. But in the past few years, science as a whole—the scientific approach to questions of all kinds—has come increasingly under attack. Science, and the technical advances that have been made possible by the application of science, are made the scapegoat for every thing that is going wrong in the world—for the population explosion, for the exhaustion of natural resources, and for the threat of war.

It is repeatedly suggested that the speed of scientific discovery should be slowed, and that scientists ought to suppress discoveries that seem capable of being used to the detriment of humanity. Scientists whose findings contradict fashionable social theories are accused of distorting their results through political prejudice, and it is suggested that on sensitive topics we should base our beliefs not on what is actually found to be the case, but on the supposed consequences of holding particular beliefs, in effect that we ought to replace science by wishful thinking.

## Clues and evidence

We seem to be heading for a situation in which science, as a whole, has once again to fight for its position, as it did a hundred years ago, and the analogy of an army fighting against the great enemies, ignorance and also prejudice, may again become appropriate. So perhaps we may say that the military analogy is appropriate for the advancement or retreat of the whole of science, or against non-scientific or anti-scientific ways of thinking, while the analogy of exploration is appropriate for the progressive increase of scientific knowledge and understanding. At the next lower level, that of an individual scientific investigation, it seems to me that a third analogy may fit well, a detective, at any rate as depicted



In his presidential address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, given at Aston University on Wednesday and printed in full below, Professor Sir Andrew Huxley suggests that science needs to go back on the offensive to protect itself against those who challenge the objectivity of scientific knowledge

### In standard works of detective fiction

This of course is the source from which I chose my title for this address. The distinction between clues and evidence is much the same in science as in detective activity, and just as important. Motive comes in rather differently, since there is nothing in a scientific investigation equivalent to the criminal in a detective novel; but it is no less important whether we think of the motive which drives a scientist to do his work, or the motives for which others may try to discredit his conclusions.

Clues are indispensable in the earliest stages of an investigation, when one is trying to form a hypothesis which can be tested, or—perhaps more often—when one is merely wondering what observations or measurement to make in the hope that they will suggest a hypothesis to us.

A clue is an observation which is relevant to the problem in hand, but which can be interpreted in more than one way. The investigator adopts one of these interpretations provisionally because he guesses that it has a fair chance of turning out to be right, and because he can think of experiments by which to follow it up.

What is his basis for making these preliminary interpretations and for weighing them against each other? He has nothing to go on except generalizations that previous work has shown to be more or less valid in the field within which his problem lies. In physics, these might be some general ideas of conservation or of symmetry. In biology, I suppose the two widest and most powerful generalizations are *adaptation* and *evolution*, and in my own field of experimental biology, one's first attempt at interpreting an observation are almost always based either tacitly or explicitly on one or both of these generalizations.

As regards adaptation, it is this discovery of the widespread occurrence of myosin-actin systems, was made, at least since the time of Aristotle, was also being found that these systems are not the only basis for motility. At least three other unrelated mechanisms are now known to exist; one, a widespread one, in cilia, in ordinary flagella, in the spindle which moves the chromosomes during mitosis, and in many movements of protoplasm; a second, which is present only in the flagella of bacteria; and a third, known only in the contractile thread of the ciliate *Vorticella* and its relatives, by which the animal withdraws itself in defensive movement.

So the proposition that contractility is everywhere of the same nature is not correct. Meanwhile, the application of this principle, repeatedly led people astray. For example, it is widely known that the fibres of some muscles, including our own voluntary muscle, are crossed by transverse bands of striations, while other muscles, including our involuntary muscles, are not striated in this way. These striations are at a spacing of a few micrometres—about ten thousand to the millimetre—and are easily seen under the light microscope. They were first seen by Leidenhoek at the end of the sixteenth century.

But at the same time that this discovery of the widespread occurrence of myosin-actin systems was made, it was also being found that these systems are not the only basis for motility. At least three other unrelated mechanisms are now known to exist; one, a widespread one, in cilia, in ordinary flagella, in the spindle which moves the chromosomes during mitosis, and in many movements of protoplasm; a second, which is present only in the flagella of bacteria; and a third, known only in the contractile thread of the ciliate *Vorticella* and its relatives, by which the animal withdraws itself in defensive movement.

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what function, and in any case there is always a chance that the structure may be a useless vestige of what was once a useful organ in some remote ancestor. Again, homologous structures in different animals may have evolved as to perform totally different functions: for instance, the small bones in the middle ear, which conduct sound vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear are evolved from parts of the joint between the lower jaw and the skull in reptiles.

It is not merely a hypothetical possibility that harm could be done by placing too much reliance on arguments based on these broad generalizations. As a side-line, which, incidentally, I have found extremely interesting—I have looked little into the development, over the last hundred years or more, of my own field of research, the mechanism of muscle contraction—I am suggesting lines to follow up: in this case, the clue—the presumption of similarity between striated and unstriated muscle—did harm because it was given too much weight and was allowed to prevent a valuable type of investigation from being carried out.

Another example from my own field of work is the following. Any muscle of the voluntary, striated type contracts if it is placed in a solution with an appropriately raised concentration of potassium ions. In most muscles of, say, a frog, this contraction has a quick onset and lasts less than a minute, but certain muscles—notably those in the fore limb of the male, which he uses when clasping the female during mating—remain smooth contracted for a long time after the onset of the contraction. The value of this is in suggesting lines to follow up: in this case, the clue—the presumption of similarity between striated and unstriated muscle—did harm because it was given too much weight and was allowed to prevent a valuable type of investigation from being carried out.

This bias is one which is also indeed boasted of by physiologists. It is the wish to extend a wide range of phenomena by a single simple principle—*similitude*—so long as it is subordinate to adequate testing against empirical evidence.

I cannot resist quoting a passage from the autobiography of Ramón y Cajal, the greatest Spanish scientist of all time of the greatest scientist probably in Spain. As a young man, he was one of the three discoverers of a theory of muscle contraction which, I believe, was first put forward in the middle of the nineteenth century. This was well investigated in the 1920s, and the plausible suggestion was made that frog muscles contained two types of muscle fibre—one which produces rapid, short-lived movements, while the other produces long-lasting slow contractions appropriate for postural and holding activity. This idea was supported by the discovery, made by a German anatomist, Krüger, around 1930, that two types of fibre are almost always found in the cytoplasm of all motile cells.

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great surprise when a slow process of contraction was directly demonstrated by Tasaki, in Japan, by dissecting out a motor nerve to a muscle fibre from a frog and stimulating them separately from the ordinary large fibres, which produce quick contractions in the muscle. It has been shown right in his surgery that a muscle fibre which had been contracted by repeated cycles of erosion, sediment formation, and upheaval that geologists infer from examination of the rocks.

Here again, an argument based on the principle of the uniformity of nature was carried to the extreme by Kelvin, who asserted that the geologists had got their time scales 10 times too long; in fact, of course, it was Kelvin who was wrong because he did not know that the temperature of the earth is maintained by radioactivity. To reply that radioactivity was not discovered until some 30 years after the controversy began does not exonerate Kelvin, but it does show that the argument was not entirely right.

The importance of the debate was not so much the actual question whether evolution by natural selection had occurred as whether it was the kind I have just mentioned, or an actual evidence about what has happened in the geological past, and what is happening at the present time, to modify existing theories of animal and plants.

This was true both of that most famous of all events at meetings of the British Association, the confrontation between T. H. Huxley and Bishop of Oxford in 1860 and also of a later controversy between T. H. Huxley and Gladstone that I mentioned above. As I said earlier, these battles were won, and for nearly a century it has been taken for granted that the evidence for evolution is overwhelming, and that there might exist other sources of error which had not been identified.

It might be thought that I have mentioned above that the whole of the tremendous progress that has taken place since 1953—the date of the first suggestion of a sliding-filament theory—was going by re-investigations of the striations with both light and electron microscopy, and many of the key points that were established at that time turned out to be rediscovered by things that had been common knowledge in about 1880. The value of this is in suggesting lines to follow up: in this case, the clue—the presumption of similarity between striated and unstriated muscle—did harm because it was given too much weight and was allowed to prevent a valuable type of investigation from being carried out.

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Then Lee & Yang, in a purely theoretical paper, suggested that a certain experimental result could not be easily explained if parity were not being conserved, and they pointed out that none of the existing evidence for conservation was relevant to weak interactions. The experiments that demonstrated this in 1957 could have been carried out years earlier, but no one had thought it worthwhile to try because, on the theory then current, it seemed certain that the result would be negative.

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Blackett mentions another point that is reminiscent of my biological examples: an experiment which in fact demonstrated non-conservation of parity had been published long before—in 1928—but had somehow failed to attract attention. Blackett's conclusion is: "The moral to experimentalists of this curious piece of scientific history is clear. Too many of them must have been deterred from making some simple but important experiments because of the prediction of a theory which they did not fully understand—for if they had, they would have realized that it was not soundly based".

**Fall into the trap**

Thirty years later, Cajal wrote: "I wish to warn young men against the invincible attraction of theoretical deductions which simplify and unify science, which are attractive to the imagination, and which are often very seductive. Ruled by the theory, we are inclined to accept, at least provisionally, that two distinct types of muscle fibre were to be found in most muscles of, say, a frog, one used for rapid movements and the other for postural and holding activity. Meanwhile, the chromosomal components of the muscle fibre were known only in the flagella of bacteria, and the chromosomes during mitosis, and in many movements of protoplasm; a second, which is present only in the flagella of bacteria; and a third, known only in the contractile thread of the ciliate *Vorticella* and its relatives, by which the animal withdraws itself in defensive movement.

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## Science's independence is threatened by being used for political ends

have no doubt at all that there were enormous numbers of cases where not only biologists of all kinds but chemists and physicists have been put on to a false scent, or have disregarded some important observation, because of overconfidence in current generalisms.

An example from nineteenth-century physics, which had serious repercussions on the theory of evolution, was Kelvin's calculation of the age of the earth, based on the rate at which it would cool down from a supposed original molten state. The result did not allow nearly enough time for the repeated cycles of erosion, sediment formation, and upheaval that geologists infer from examination of the rocks.

merely that he is descended from ancestors, but that the change had been brought about by the impersonal process of natural selection.

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There is one feature of the present-day situation that to me appears much more sinister than anything that occurred in the evolution controversy. There were, as I have said, scientists—including very distinguished ones—who opposed

the policies of the USSR, and indeed of the USA, and that were at least ostensibly scientific. An element of self-deception may well have been a factor, but there were real scientific difficulties: the genetic evidence for Mendelian genetics was brought to an end. That was indeed a situation where individual scientists in their capacity as scientists, and scientific organizations as such, had full justification in bringing whatever pressure they could to bear on the authorities in the USSR to restore freedom of scientific thought and investigation.

The climax of this affair was the notorious session of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences in August 1948, which was endorsed by the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union itself, and which re-established Lysenko's dominating position from universities and research institutes of everyone who gave any credit to Mendelian genetics. This did stimulate an appropriate reaction from many scientists abroad: for example, nearly all foreign members of the Soviet Union resigned, including Sir Henry Dale, who had recently been president of the Royal Society.

To his eternal credit, J. B. S. Haldane, formerly a staunch supporter of all things Soviet, publicly dissociated himself from the Lysenkoites, who had not only failed to recognize as openly anti-scientific; J. D. Bernal, on the other hand, was among the few outside the Soviet Union who took the party line and continued to defend Lysenko's doctrines.

The persecutions of the present day, however, are not directed against scientific doctrine, but against scientists as such, because they are directed against individual citizens who have the courage to speak up against oppressive features of the regimes under which they live. Among these brave individuals there are, for example, writers and medical men as well as scientists.

**Human rights**

The appropriate reaction therefore comes from us not as scientists but as citizens; if we wish to join in some corporate protest, it should be through a body whose prime concern is with human rights and not through one whose prime concern is with science. If a scientific body publicly takes a step whose justification is political and not scientific, it will lose the right to speak in the name of science, and the right to speak up against oppressive features of the regimes under which they live.

The question of inheritance of ability, however, is not in a comfortable position. It is notoriously difficult to separate the genetic substratum of the striated muscle fibre with the simple reticular fibrillar framework of all protoplasm. "We fall into the trap all the more readily when the simple and apparent to us are deeply rooted in the common sense which arose over evolution in the early 1860s. One that has passed through my mind is extra-sensorial perception and other paranormal phenomena. If there were a well-founded claim as true what would be required to refute decisively the argument that because of its size is uncertain, therefore it may possibly be zero.

The situation at the present day in relation to the inheritance of human ability is, it seems to me, similar to what might well have developed in the case of the International Congress of Physiologists that was held in India in 1974, where we were unable to attend, and the International Congress of Physiologists that was held in Paris in 1975, where we were unable to attend. The situation at the present day in relation to the inheritance of human ability is, it seems to me, similar to what might well have developed in the case of the International Congress of Physiologists that was held in India in 1974, where we were unable to attend, and the International Congress of Physiologists that was held in Paris in 1975, where we were unable to attend.

Political questions come in at the

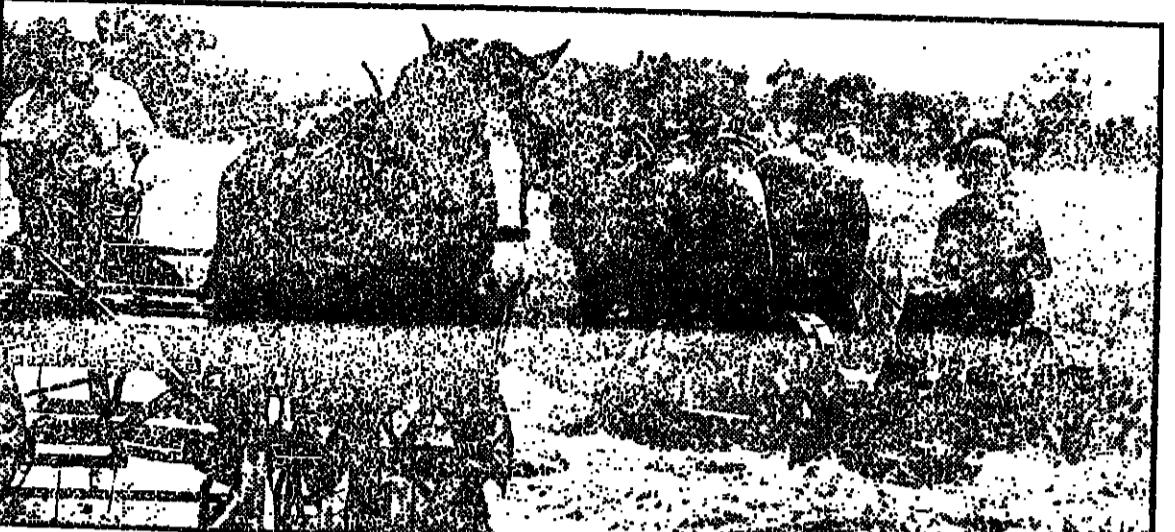






# BOOKS

## A power within a world of power



**The Media are American**  
by Jeremy Tunstall  
Constable, £6.00 and £3.50  
ISBN 0 99 460260 3 and 461510 1

**Trade Unions and the Media**  
by Peter Beharrell and Greg Philo  
Macmillan, £2.50  
ISBN 0 333 22052

**Mass Communication and Society**  
edited by James Curran, Michael Gurevitch and Janet Wollacott  
Arnold, £9.95 and £3.50  
ISBN 0 7131 5939 1 or 5940 5

Until quite recently research on mass communication was dominated by the question "Who says what, to whom and with what effects?" Seemingly comprehensive, the approach actually defined the process of mass communication in a quite narrow, superficial and "hypodermic" manner. Research conducted in those terms was, however, cumulatively disappointing; in particular because, as Joseph Klapper pointed out in a thorough review of 20 years' work, its findings about effects were so very modest. The syringes it appeared contained at most a mild sedative not the powerful stimulus that had been supposed. Thanks to our capacity for selective perception the media seemed to do little more than gently reinforce existing attitudes and values.

Then McLuhan taught us to add "how" questions to those we were already asking. Strengthened by some distinguished anthropological work on myth, symbolism and the elementary structures of meaning this led at least to a much deeper, subtler sense of what the media were saying, to a more convincing exploration of symbolic and semantic organization and to a sharper understanding of the substantive implications of form and style.

Even in this revised form, however, the approach and the work resulted from it were oddly limited and abstracted. "Who says what to whom, how and with what effects?" was an improvement on the earlier question in that it did direct attention to the design of the ideological world of which in modern societies mass communication is presumptively the main architect. But it was still depressively inclusive. And it was surely unsociological. It allowed students of the mass media to overlook the forceful reality of mass communication as a social institution in a forced institutional setting.

It is this gap that contemporary research on mass communication, well represented by these three books, seeks to fill. The new effort is to understand mass communication as a structure of power constructed in a world of power. James Curran examines the struggle for the freedom of the press in mid-nineteenth-century England and shows how the forces of the free market proved a much more effective means of destroying the radical press than the forces of government had been.

Jeremy Tunstall traces the way in which commercial opportunism has enabled a handful of British, French and American news-agencies to dominate two-thirds of the globe, and the way in which the enormous domestic economic strength of American companies such as RCA has enabled them to invade and conquer the telephone, communication markets of Europe, America, Africa and much of Asia.

**This Box in the Corner**  
by Gwen Dunn  
Macmillan, £7.95 and £2.95  
ISBN 0 333 19222 2 and 19223 0

## Audible wallpaper watching

audience about which comparatively little is known.

Gwen Dunn has attempted to remedy this deficit. A primary school headteacher with wide experience of children's broadcasting, she spent the year of her IBA fellowship investigating the impact of television on pre-school children. She watched them watching television and talked to them about what they had seen; she also talked to their parents and teachers and to the programme makers.

The book poses a number of questions about the role that television takes up a large part of the lives of most young children, but when trying to answer the important question as to its impact and effect one has to take into account not only the presentation and content of the programmes but also how they are received by children in their own homes. This is an

interesting breakdown affected TV transmission. These children may learn something from television but without an adult on hand it may not be what programme provision has disappointed. Mrs Dunn concludes that it has a lot to offer if used with care by the adults who have responsibility for the child. Unfortunately, however, many children have come to adopt their parents' habit of treating television as an audible wallpaper, looking without seeing. It is not difficult to comprehend the ease with which one group of under-fives switch their attention to the television screen while the other group of under-fives are watching the washing machine, when

clothes being washed in the window.

Recognizing the

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Philip Abrams

## Chronicle

In sum, in this type of mass communication, the ownership of power, that is shared, dispersed or concentrated, is not matched by an equally comprehensive communication range, elusive and a little ambiguous. Here the new media society finds itself at a loss. The first fruits of many years' noticeable softening of research and analysis, its publication date coincides with the centenary of the original argument at once making it a major biographical study of Haydn undertaken by the Austrian scholar C. F. Pohl.

Robbins Landon's association with Haydn's music began early. At the age of 21, in the year he graduated from Royal University, he founded the Haydn Society, which started to achieve an overall idealistic and precise comparison with George Peacock's *Composition and Atonality* (Faber, 1962) and Allen Forte's *The Structure of Atonal Music* (Yale, 1973). *Music in Transition* is wider-ranging than either of these, and at times (though only at times) more readable.

The virtue of Samson's study, and why it deserves to be recommended to university teachers of music in the absence of anything better, is that it steers the seeker after tonality towards more composers and precise musical examples. If his book manages to provoke nothing more than recognition of Liszt, Busoni, Reger, Rimsky-Korsakow, Debussy, Ravel (and others) as part-time tonalists, that will do well enough for the time being; it will at least make it difficult for authority to continue to pretend that the innovations most vividly revealed in the works of Schoenberg and his school are isolated aberrations.

But if Samson's thesis does not go far enough, its chronological sequence and companion volume by Arnold Whittall, intended to cover the period from 1920 to the present, does not even begin to move. There can be few aspirations more doomed to frustration in comparison than a discussion of musical development of the past 60 years in terms of tonality; can anyone imagine the product aided by exaggerated publicity in the press notices, and skillful presentation by highly paid salesmen in the form of star performers?

Christopher Small maintains that

it is precisely this notion of art as

a product which has been our main western stumbling block, and that

the error has been accepted, not just by today's teachers, performers and arts administrators, but by the artists themselves or, to narrow it down (as it were), post-Renaissance artists of the western civilization.

They have shared in "the scientific world view" of post-Renaissance western culture which divorces the artist from society, from the ordinary

and from the popular culture of the bourgeoisie.

But if the author's choices are

worthy, his treatment is not. Too much of his general commentary is nondescript and foggy, and his material hardly organized. He does not know what tonality is (not that anybody does who has tried to write about it). His explanations for unseemly chronotaxis as signifying "passion" and "disruption" are as

ridiculous today as they were years ago, and his italicized insistence that Busoni and Debussy remained tonal composers seems unnecessarily reactionary.

One is impressed by the author's fondness for the term "society" and the way in which it is applied to almost everything.

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material is devoted to discussion of Haydn's quinquennial association with England, and the commentary on the social world.

"Culture, the Media and the Intellectual Effect" is a distinguished essay; but it is

what was needed to substantiate the author's claim that "the symphony is no longer a matter of dominant musical culture".

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# BOOKS

## Ethereal philosophy



The Origins of Evil in Hindu Mythology  
by Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty  
University of California Press,  
£11.25  
ISBN 0 520 03163 6

"This is the fascination of Hinduism—all the possible solutions are there," affirms Dr O'Flaherty at the end of her search through a jungle of myths for answers to the problem of evil. But some solutions seem never to appear in India, well-harded ever, since the myths are immutable and nobody knows them all.

The Devil of Manichean and Judeo-Christian mythology is "sodom invoked", because Indian demons were ambivalent or even virtuous. The single, transcendent God of Job is far from the deities who pop in and out of human life. And the vicarious-suffering solution of Isaiah and the New Testament has little parallel, for when Dr O'Flaherty interprets the famous hymn of Purusha, the cosmic being (*Rig Veda* 10, 90), as "an act of true and literal self-sacrifice on the part of the primeval creator", the text itself says that "the gods performed the sacrifice with Purusha as an offering", dividing him into creatures and classes of men.

As in her previous books Dr O'Flaherty ranges through Indian mythology with ease and charm, abandoning her earlier "modified structuralist technique" because the problem of evil has many irreducible facets. Indians have been called "strangely silent" about the mystery of evil, because attention was fixed on philosophy whereas mythology has more spontaneous and varied attitudes to theodicy. So much is not confined to Semitic monotheism, but it is the touchstone of all religions, or nearly so. The best known Indian solution is Karma, the belief that suffering comes from past actions, but nothing complete but emotionally unsatisfying. Often regarded as dominant, "the myths of Karma were widely reflected in India" and even in Buddhist iconography and prayers contradict its cold logic.

Hillforts in Ireland are the most unsatisfactory part of the book. Its treatment of radio-carbon dates—fundamental for any modern study of the prehistoric culture of any country. Only about half-a-dozen dates are mentioned; they are not given laboratory numbers, and no clear evidence is provided as to whether they are calibrated or uncalibrated. A second edition of this book should have as an appendix a list of all the known C14 dates from Ireland with the laboratory dates as far as the calibrated calendar dates as BC.

Hillforts in Britain are the great variety among the most common prehistoric monuments in Britain: ranging in size from less than an acre to several hundred acres and in structure from simple univallate earthworks to vast multi-vallate fortresses like Maiden Castle, they like megaliths, are among the most interesting and notable of our surviving monuments from prehistory. The Ordnance Survey's Map of Southern Britain in the Iron Age lists 1,500 of them.

It was an excellent idea to bring together in one book the present ideas of archaeologists who have dug hillforts and written about them in the last 40 years. They are all here: Christopher Hawkes, doyen of hillfort archaeologists now that Sir Mortimer Wheeler is dead, reassesses the St Catherine's Hill, Winchester report of 1930. Gerald Dunning looks back at the 1931-34 excavations at Salmonbury, Bourton-on-the-Water, and Tewkesbury, 1939-1972. Of this modern generation of hillfort diggers there is the editor, professor-elect of Archaeology in Edinburgh, his work at Blewburton Hill, Berkshire, and David Coombs on Man Tor in Dartmoor, among others. There is also a re-evaluation of Traprain Law by George Jones, an essay on Welsh hillforts by Robert Savory, a study of the vitrified forts of Scotland by Euan MacKie, and an admirable essay by Michael Avery entitled "Hillforts of the British Isles: A Student's Introduction".

Hillfort studies have never been published in this form before: this is a compendium of the greatest value to all archaeologists and the editor and the contributors deserve our warmest thanks and congratulations. Christopher Hawkes' 1931 paper on "Hillforts" in *Antiquity* was a landmark in archaeology; 45 years later, we have another.

Glyn Daniel

Geoffrey Parrinder

## Seen from the sierra

Peru: a Cultural History  
by Henry P. Dobyns and Paul L. Doughty  
Oxford University Press, £7.75 and £3.75  
ISBN 0 19 202098 8 and 19502099 X

The earlier volumes in this series

of Latin American histories have merited their outstanding reputations as short but skillful interpretations of a particular country's political, social and economic development.

Unlike earlier authors in the series Professors Dobyns and Doughty are not historians. Both gained their reputations as anthropologists concerned with the well-known Cornell/Vicus project in the Peruvian Andes. Their background provides them not only with a distinctive disciplinary approach. In contrast to earlier historians of Peru, who wrote almost entirely from a Lima viewpoint, they have an acute awareness of the nature and continuing importance of the Indian traditions of the *sierra*. Their emphasis, early in the book, on the heterogeneous ecology and population of the *sierra* raises hopes of a fresh interpretation of Peru's history.

The complexity of the subject and strict limitations on space disappoin-

t

ts this hope. While emphasizing the continuing influence of the pre-conquest civilizations of Peru, the authors rarely explain how this differentiates the Peruvian experience from other areas of Spanish America. Problems at present important to colonial historians receive little attention. Dobyns and Doughty note, for example, that Peru's independence movement was belated, conservative, and equivocal, but do not link this with the white elite's fear of the Indian majority. The legends of four Peruvian saints and the origins of religious cults receive more attention than the church's role as a landowner and banker. The rise

of industrial development is not explained. Nor does the strength of the oligarchy in North America and the broad area of social science. And Jantsch provides his own

analysis of the 1918-1930 period of election in 1918-1930, recent

attention.

Although the book provides

reconsiderations of the history of the past, the overall product is

pointing in view of the new

reputation. Their creditable

effort to pay proper attention to

colonial history deserves

praise. The book is well written,

but it is not always

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**Universities**  
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**Polytechnics**  
**Technical Colleges**  
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Applications should be forwarded as soon as possible.

